

Amendments to the Specification are as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 4 and ending on page 13, line 6 as follows:

The core halves 22 and 23 are composed of a highly wear-resistant ceramic material, such as CaTiO₃ ~~CaTiO₃~~ or Al₂O₃+TiC, or a magnetic material such as ferrite.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 21 and ending on page 22, line 26 as follows:

Since the center 65a of the marker layer 65 and the center 54b of the MR element 54 are placed on the normal line D, they are aligned along the normal line D. Consequently, it is possible to easily determine the center of the MR element 54**b**f by detecting the center of the marker layer 65, and to thereby easily adjust the height of the MR element 54.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 1 and ending on page 25, line 5 as follows:

In the magnetic head 21 of the third embodiment, the marker layer 75 may be composed of a nonmagnetic material. In this case, the influence of the marker layer 75 on the asymmetry is substantially lessened, and changes in the asymmetry can be reduced further. The center 75b of the marker layer 75 and the center 54b are aligned along the head center line C.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 7 and ending on page 25, line 12 as follows:

A magnetic head of a first example was produced which had the same configuration as that in FIG. 8 except that the track width Tw of an MR element 54 was 6 μm, the width of a marker layer 65 was 10.2 μm, the thickness of the marker layer 65 was 2 μm, the thickness of a first shielding layer 51 was 2.5 μm, and the azimuth angle θ was 25°.